

The Rhumb Line

Maine Maritime Museum

March 1999

Annual Report Issue

Number 19



Celebrate yachting! See page 3

Our Capital Campaign is Launched



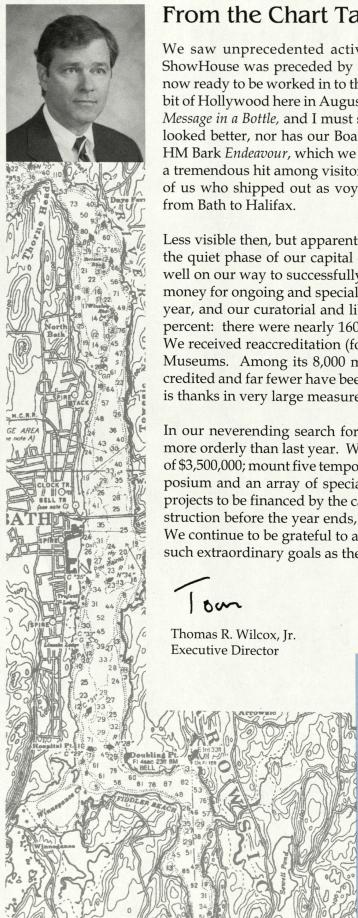
A visitor center, new dining facilities, a refurbished Percy & Small Shipyard, an additional interpretive gallery and a visiting yachtsmen's

center highlight our newly-launched \$3.5 million Honoring Our Seafaring Heritage Capital Campaign. Maine Maritime Museum has secured initial commitments that total more than \$2.2 million, leading the way toward a successful attainment of the goal in 1999.

Under the leadership of Edward P. Harding of Brunswick, former Chairman of the Board of Trustees, the Campaign focuses on enhancing visitors' experiences when they come to the Museum. To make this

possible, campaign funds will be utilized to construct several new facilities, among them a multiple-use facility on the southwest side of the Maritime History Building. This structure will provide flexible space for dining, lectures, symposia and receptions, as well as usable space for children's educational programs and a Museum orientation film. Three thousand square feet of additional collections storage space are planned as part of this structure.

An orientation gallery will be added to the north side of the Maritime History Building, through which visitors will pass to enter the historic Percy & Small Shipyard. The new gallery will be filled with paintings, continued on page 7



From the Chart Table

We saw unprecedented activity here during 1998. The Victorian Designer ShowHouse was preceded by a major refurbishment of Donnell House, which is now ready to be worked in to the mainstream of Museum programming. We had a bit of Hollywood here in August for the filming of Warner Brothers' motion picture Message in a Bottle, and I must say the rockbound coast of "North Carolina" never looked better, nor has our Boatshop looked more boatshop-like. And the visit of HM Bark Endeavour, which we sponsored in conjunction with the City of Bath was a tremendous hit among visitors and volunteers alike - and particularly so for two of us who shipped out as voyage crew, one from Portsmouth to Bath, the other

Less visible then, but apparent now in this issue of *The Rhumb Line*, we undertook the quiet phase of our capital campaign, Honoring our Seafaring Heritage. We are well on our way to successfully completing this effort in 1999. We raised as much money for ongoing and special operations in 1998 as we ever have done in a single year, and our curatorial and library collecting activity increased by more than 25 percent: there were nearly 160 donations of thousands of objects and documents. We received reaccreditation (for the third time) from the American Association of Museums. Among its 8,000 member institutions only 750 are professionally accredited and far fewer have been reaccredited. Our success in this rigorous process is thanks in very large measure to you, our members and supporters.

In our neverending search for excellence 1999 promises to be as intense, if a bit more orderly than last year. We want to meet or exceed our capital campaign goal of \$3,500,000; mount five temporary exhibitions; conduct our Maritime History Symposium and an array of special program offerings; refine several components of projects to be financed by the capital campaign; and perhaps even begin some construction before the year ends, all in the course of achieving an operating surplus. We continue to be grateful to all of you in our extended family who regularly turn such extraordinary goals as these into realities.

The Rhumb Line

Number 19 March 1999

The Rhumb Line is the quarterly newsletter of Maine Maritime Museum, a non-profit museum institution Editor-in-Chief: Thomas R. Wilcox, Jr.

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Gallery -

Part of the modern appeal of travel by steamboat is the sense of a relaxed pace and gracefulness that pervaded those days. That long-ago era is conveyed by this evocative photograph of the walking-beam steamer City of Bangor loading at Northport, Maine in 1905. Passengers crowd the pier as carriages stand by; friends and family gather on the green to see them off.

Founded in 1845, the Boston & Bangor Steamship Company operated as a division of the Eastern Steamship Company after 1901. Their City of Bangor (ON 127029) was built in 1894 at the William McKie yard in Boston, and carried as many as 700 passengers per trip on various Maine routes until she was retired in 1927. The small ferry is probably the Emmeline. -MMM Collections

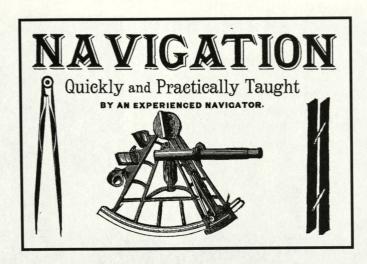
New Exhibits Make a Bridge to the Past

Summer visitors will delight in two new exhibitions in the Maritime History Building. In the Peterson Gallery Library Director Nathan Lipfert has assembled an exhibit on the construction of the Carlton Bridge, the first span across the Kennebec River at Bath and a landmark since 1927. His subject is timely because a new four-lane bridge under construction will soon replace it.

On June 25 we will open *All the Go: A Celebration of Yachting in Maine* in the Crooker Gallery. It will replace *Tugboat Classics of Maine*, which has been extended through June 6. *All the Go* will take a broad look at the history of recreational boating in Maine, which dates at least to the organization of the Portland Yacht Club in 1869.

By the mid-1870s yachting was very much in vogue as people discovered the joys of uninhabited islands, regattas and shoreside clambakes. The arrival of the New York Yacht Club fleet in 1898 marked an official beginning of interest on the part of yacht-club cruises "from away," and from that time until this the Maine coast has been a destination for solo and group cruises, as well as a place where yachtsmen and women can count on skilled shipwrights to build the vessels of their dreams.

Members will receive an invitation to attend a preview reception. Plan to join today: don't miss this exciting celebration of yachting in Maine.



Arctic Navigation, Lightships and Grog Highlight Spring Lecture Series

Our ongoing Spring Lecture Series continues through March and April with a variety of topics guaranteed to bring you back again and again.

On March 26 Lincoln Paine will present a lecture about the history of drink at sea through the ages. It's called "Scotch on the Rocks, and Other Tales of the Wine-Dark Seas." Mr. Paine is a former editor of *Sea History* magazine.

On April 1 Paul Fournier will relate his experiences of two years on duty aboard the lightship *Portland*. Mr. Fournier's lecture "Once Upon a Lightship" will address the valiant crews who endured perilous seas and the possibility of shipwreck to guide other ships to safe harbor.

On April 8 Captain Patrick Toomey presents "Circumnavigation of Baffin Island by a Russian Icebreaker." Captain Toomey, now retired from the U.S. Coast Guard is a consultant for ice navigation and trainer for navigators of ships journeying from Siberia to Greenland. His video presentation will feature spectacular fjords, Inuit villages and the natural wildlife of the Arctic Circle.

The Spring Lectures conclude April 15 when archaeologist William Kelso, director of the Jamestown Rediscovery Project; and Jeffrey Brain, project leader of the Popham Archaeology Project will present current research and discuss archaeological evidence linking these early colonial sites. Emerson Baker of Salem State College will begin the evening with an historical overview of these ventures to the "New World."

Drs. Brain and Kelso will also be on the site of Fort St. George, Popham Beach, from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Friday, April 16 to answer questions.

All lectures begin at 7 p.m. in the Maritime History Building and last approximately two hours. The cost is \$6.50 for members, \$7.50 for non-members, except for the April 15th program for which tickets will be \$10 and will include a reception to benefit the Popham Project and Maine Maritime Museum. Reservations, much recommended, may be obtained by calling (207) 443-1316, ext. 322.

Small Point

Historian E.J. Chandler of Wiscasset speculates that the pinnace *Virginia* built at Popham in 1607 may have later carried young maidens to Jamestown. He has found that "young and uncorrupt" girls, mostly waifs from London were "impressed" to the colony. If the *Virginia* carried supplies across the Atlantic as believed, Chandler surmises that her cargo may have included such "kidnapped" children.

Once Again, It's Symposium Time!

We'll continue our annual presenation of groundbreaking research in maritime history, with some darn good sea stories into the mix at this year's Maritime History Symposium, April 30 through May 2.

As customary, festivities begin with the Fish House Punch Reception on the evening of Friday, April 30. Presentations begin Satuday morning at the Community Hall of Bath Savings Institution, and include the presentation of the Captain W.J. Lewis Parker Award for excellence in the field of Maine maritime history.

The roster of speakers this year includes David Cordingly of the National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, who will present the keynote Fitzgerald-Conley Lecture on the theme "Under the Black Flag," a study derived from his book of the same name which debunks many of the myths and lore that have grown up around the history of pirates and piracy.

Well-known modelmaker Richard (Frenchy) DeVynck, of St. Croix, U.S.V.I. will address "Ship Modelling in the 21st Century" and focus on the modelmaker's role in documenting maritime history, and how the computer age is changing modelling.

Ralph D. Getson, Curator of Education at the Fisheries Museum of the Atlantic at Lunenburg, Nova Scotia, also a ship-modeller, will deliver a program on "The Grand Banks Fishery."

George King III, chief engineer aboard the steamboat *Sabino* at Mystic Seaport Museum will speak from his extensive research files on the history of this now-unique and marvellous vessel which began its service life on the Maine coast under the name *Tourist*.

Nathan R. Lipfert, Library Director of Maine Maritime Museum will present results of his latest study

OOPS!

We're sometimes reminded of the newspaper editor who overlooked a typographical error describing one Sgt. John Doe as a "defective on the police force": when his contrite apology reached print the correction noted that Sergeant Doe was, in fact, "a detective on the police farce." We earnestly admit to an error in the staff telephone list (Issue 18) when we identified Administrative Assistant Susanne Drumm as Susan Drumm. She's an important member of the Museum force and we think it's correct this time.

"Death in the Shipyard: Occupational Hazards in 19th Century Shipbuilding."

Stanton Maloney's talk "19th-Century Sailing Captains and Issues of Management and Leadership" devolves from his study of leadership at sea from historical and literary sources. Mr. Maloney is associate professor of management at the University of New England, Biddeford; and formerly worked for two decades in business, principally in Fortune 500 companies.

In "Destroyer Doctor," Captain Benjamin G. Newman, USNR, senior medical officer, Naval Security Group Activity at Winter Harbor, Maine will address his experiences as a medical officer in Destroyer Squadron II off the coast of South Vietnam during the Vietnam War. Captain Newman remains on active duty in the U.S. Naval Reserve and took part in Operation Desert Storm.

Advance registrations are requested. Registrants will receive a complete program package and schedule of events. To reserve a place or obtain more information, call (207) 443-1316, ext. 322.



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Spring's the Time for Boatbuilding at MMM

During April noted author and boatbuilder Ken Textor will lead a Boatshop Workshop devoted to building an example of a one-station skiff using traditional methods of fastening and planking.

Classes will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. on April 17, 19-22, 24, and 26-29 at the Museum Boatshop. Class size is limited and pre-registration is required.

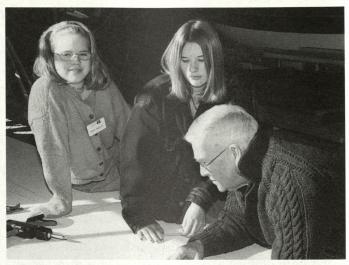
Tuition is \$350 per student for 80 hours of instruction. At the end of the workshop a drawing will be held to determine which fortunate participant gets to take the boat home.

Mr. Textor is the author of the recently-released book *Innocents Afloat*, and is a regular contributor to *WoodenBoat*, *SAIL*, *Cruising World*, *Offshore*, and *Down East* magazines.

SLOPS WANTED: (Our Wish List)

Please call Tom or Ruth at (207) 443-1316 if you can help out. Thanks!

chop saw drill press stationary sander cotton diapers wooden rulers craft paint planking clamps lime (4 acres worth) library cart box compass small trailer utility shelf cart a final-point-of-sale work-station computer a fireproof safe large enough to hold four 11x16 in. cash drawers marine-related board games, jigsaw puzzles and children's books



Already Building a Boat — Boatshop Volunteer staff instructor Bob Niles studies plans for the Yankee Tender with South Bristol students Sarah Baglione (at left) and Linda Hanley.

-Photo by Ned Harding

The Boatshop crew are not waiting for the workshop to begin. They've already begun an important annual project which provides boatbuilding knowledge and teamwork skills to the eighth-grade students of South Bristol Elementary School.

This year, as in the past, the school's Discovery Boat Builders' Program gives these students the opportunity to learn the art of wooden-boat building. They begin by learning to make essential joints, then gain practice with tools by building a tool box. The boatbuilding process begins when they make a half-hull model based on plans for the boat, after which they work as a group to loft and construct a plywood version of a Yankee Tender. The program incorporates hands-on learning skills with Maine's Learning Results: real-life application of classroom subjects such as math and history. Students keep a weekly journal of their experience.

This year's class includes Sarah Baglione, Tori Farnsworth, Michael Farrin, Linda Hanley, Crystal Kelsey, Amanda King, Kyle Lincoln, Billy Magnussen, Derry Salewski and Abby Stanley.

This is the <u>best</u> season for shopping our Museum Store

Don't forget the 10% Members Discount!

MAINE MARITIME MUSEUM



1998 Annual Report

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Dear Fellow Members:

Your Museum has just completed an extraordinary year, one in which we completely renovated our historic Donnell House; we hosted the visit of the replica of James Cook's Endeavour; we raised a record amount of current financial support; and, we were the beneficiary of an unusually large number of donations to our collections. We did all this and commenced a capital campaign, the results of which will make a marked improvement in your Museum.

The projects included in our campaign, Honoring Our Seafaring Heritage will put a new face on the Percy & Small Shipyard site. We intend, both by refurbishing the buildings as well as by renewing the exhibits therein to "make the yard rumble" once again, to quote from our campaign literature. Part of the Percy & Small upgrade will be an evocation—to some degree in the scale of the real thing—of the largest of the schooners, Wyoming on the exact spot where she was built in 1909. Additionally we will construct an addition near and connected to the Maritime History Building which will greatly enhance our ability to conduct our many public programs. This meeting/reception facility will also contain badly needed collections storage space. There will be other aspects to our refurbishment such as a visiting yachtsman's center. Finally, we hope to expand our endowment. We will be discussing these exciting prospects with you over the course of this coming year.

The Museum's membership, board, staff and the hundreds of our volunteers continue to make this place one of this country's great maritime museums. Together we are supporting the preservation of a major part of our country's heritage while at the same time nurturing a place where our many audiences can eagerly come together to learn about that heritage - in an exciting and meaningful way.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I thank you all for your continuing help. I encourage you to visit often when you are in the area and to follow, and provide input to our progress.

Sincerely,

David R. Weiss

Chair, Board of Trustees

David R News

Maine Maritime Museum 1998 Annual Report

Condensed Consolidated Statement of Operating Income and Expenses For the Year Ending December 31, 1998 (From internally-prepared figures)

OPERATING INCOME	
Support	
Contributions	338,741
Grants	45,000
Total Support	383,741
Revenue	
Memberships	101,979
Admissions	292,489
Programs and Special Events	128,231
Museum Shop and Publications Sales	263,935
Interest and Dividends	165,008
Miscellaneous	12,892
Total Revenue	964,534
TOTAL OPERATING INCOME	1,348,275
OPERATING EXPENSES	
Program Services	996,427
Management and General	174,375
Development and Membership	74,732
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	1,245,534
Excess of Operating Income Over (Under) Expense	102,741 *
*Transferred to Capital Expenditures	

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Campaign Totals As of February 4, 1999 Division Commitments Total **Board of Trustees** 29 \$1,668,421 Staff and Volunteers 100 62,066 Pacesetter Gifts 1 500,000 Major Gifts 25,000 1 Special Gifts 19 3,145 Total 150 \$2,258,631

Campaign, continued from page 1

models, dioramas and other objects that tell the story of Percy & Small. The shipyard buildings themselves will receive much-needed structural and cosmetic attention, but more importantly, exhibitions within each will be enhanced and reinterpreted to best explain to visitors the methods of constructing wood sailing vessels at Percy & Small and other shipyards in Maine.

The centerpiece of the shipyard renovation will be an outdoor sculptural element evoking the size and shape of the great coal schooner *Wyoming*, built by Percy & Small during 1909 and now considered the largest wood sailing vessel ever built. This unique depiction will give visitors a real sense of the mass of this giant vessel, which stretched from Washington Street all the way to the edge of the Kennebec River.

A grant from an anonymous donor will fund the planning and creation of this massive depiction, which will be installed at the exact location where the original schooner was constructed. Under the leadership of Trustee Nancy Connery of Woolwich a committee is being formed to oversee this segment of the capital program. The materials and means of execution will result from a design competition that will solicit concepts from leading artists around the nation.

Campaign funds will also provide for the construction of a Visiting Yachtsmen's Building near the north pier. This new facility will offer bathrooms, showers and laundry facilities for boaters who visit the Museum by way of the Kennebec and Sasanoa Rivers.

The campaign also includes additional support for the Museum's endowment and other reserves to underwrite programs, overhead, and new initiatives. Finally, resources will be allocated for improvements to the Education Building, additional equipment for curatorial and library storage, and replacement of the Museum work vehicle.

The campaign has been led by the generous support of several foundations. Significant grants have been received from an anonymous donor, Bath Iron Works, the Libra Foundation, and the Mildred H. McEvoy Foundation.

Under the leadership of Trustee Gregory Barmore of Harpswell members of the Museum's Board of Trustees have made early personal commitments totalling more than \$650,000. Paid and volunteer staff have conducted their own campaign, led by Volunteer Council Co-chair Thomas Percy of Phippsburg and Registrar Darren Poupore of Bath. A special committee of employees and volunteers held informal meetings during the Fall of 1998 to discuss the project, and the group has raised more than \$62,000 to date with participation by 81 percent of paid and volunteer staff members.

Members of the Museum and friends will be asked to support the project. The Pacesetter Division, initiated in January seeks multi-year pledges of \$50,000 or more. The Major Gifts Division will seek solicitations in the \$5,000 to \$49,000 range, and during the summer a general appeal will encourage Special Gifts. Campaign leaders expect to conclude their solicitations by September.

ShowHouse Results Prove Remarkable

Our Victorian ShowHouse in the summer of 1998 introduced Maine Maritime Museum to an expanded audience and became a superb cooperative venture involving much of the greater Bath community. Volunteers gave more than 6,000 hours of service. Room sponsorships, donations for start-up costs and Committee member donations totalled more than \$31,000.

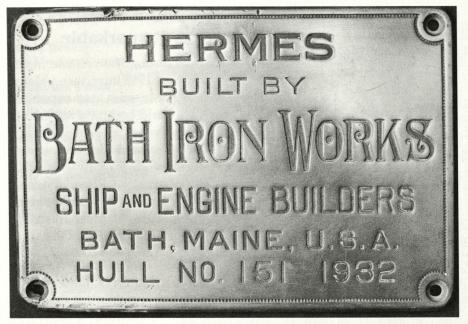
Donations of "in-kind" support services by caterers, landscapers, contractors and printers exceeded \$52,000. In addition, design features such as wallpaper, murals, drapery and carpeting which remain in the house after the event are valued at more than \$31,000.

The total of capital improvements to Donnell House exceeded \$158,000, including the designers' work, a new roof, a security system, HVAC heat and humidity control, plexiglass and ultraviolet window shielding, a new walkway and driveway, and landscaping. Donnell House is now a secure and appropriate space suitable for many uses as an integral part of the Museum complex.

03

Small Point

A spencer (lest we forget) is a trysail set on a gaff abaft the foremast or mainmast of a square-rigged vessel, and sometimes set on its own short mast; presumably the "spencer mast" mentioned by Richard Henry Dana in Two Years Before the Mast. If Dana's brig Pilgrim in fact carried such a mast she could be classed as a snow. Those interested in such arcana are referred to the painting of the snow Clarissa Ann in the Family Fleets exhibit.



An Interinstitutional Transfer Augments Our Historic Collections

Museums are often thought of as acquisitive, possessive organizations that compete to acquire the material objects of history. But this stereotype is frequently demolished when institutions help each other to build locally-important collections.

Recently we received a parcel "out of the blue" from the Columbia River Maritime Museum in Astoria, Oregon. It contained the bronze builder's plaque from the U.S. Coast Guard Cutter *Hermes*, built by Bath Iron Works in 1932. The plaque was donated to the CRMM by James Dustan of Salem, Oregon. The staff at Astoria realized its importance to the people of Maine and sent it "home" as an interinstitutional transfer. Such transfers allow one museum to turn over to another artifacts that better suit the collections and mission of the latter institution.

We are grateful both to Mr. Dustan and to the CRMM staff. By the way, the Columbia River Maritime Museum comes highly recommended. Its exhibitions, focusing on Columbia River history and the Pacific Northwest are well worth a visit when travelling along the coast of Oregon.

B- Small Point

We always hear of the worst at Cape Horn, but Captain Jim (Shotgun) Murphy reported calms when he brought the *Shenandoah* around in 1894. This February our Curator Bob Webb returned from a stint as Smithsonian Lecturer on board the M.S. *Noordam* to report a similar flat-calm sea by "Cape Stiff."

Qualified Volunteers Sought for Small-Craft Documentation Project

Boatshop Manager Will West hopes to establish a three-person team to document the MMM small-craft collection. He is seeking qualified volunteers who can work independently and as part of a team to record our historic boats and be present one day each week during the summer as a "working exhibit" for the visiting public.

Team volunteers will take measurements and also document scantlings and dimensions, which will then be transferred onto the lofting floor to develop tables of offsets. From these tables a replica of the boat could later be lofted and built.

The project requires volunteers who have a facility with mathematics and a working understanding of basic geometry. The team will work one day each week.

More information on this unique opportunity to help study the Museum collection of more than 130 historic boats can be obtained by calling Will at the Boatshop, (207) 443-1316, ext. 341.

Matching Contributions

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Contributions, and in some cases membership dues are matched by many corporations. However, the museum has to be approved for matching funds and then apply for each match as the gift is received. If you are employed by—or retired from—a company that has a matching program please let us know by calling the Membership Office at (207) 443-1316.

men Take a Summer Cruise with Us! men

June

12 Midcoast Lighthouse Cruise*

19 Seguin, The Island Sentinel*

23 **Windjammer Days**: Watch Maine's famous windjammers work around the bay and parade into Boothbay Harbor. (10 a.m. - 4 p.m.)

26 Midcoast Lighthouse Cruise* 30 Midcoast Lighthouse Cruise*

July

2 Midcoast Lighthouse Cruise*

4 **Fireworks on the River**: Cruise Bath's colorful waterfront and enjoy an on-the-river view of the Heritage Days fireworks celebration. \$15 members, \$20 non-members (8:30 p.m. - 10:30 p.m.)

7 On to Richmond*

9 Pemaquid, Colonial Empire*

10 Damariscove Outer Island*

16 Midcoast Lighthouse Cruise*

17 Seguin, The Island Sentinel*

18 Maine Lobsters and Local Lore*

21 Swan Island, Where Eagles Roam*

23 Night Lights on the Coast of Maine*

25 Pemaquid, Colonial Empire*

28 Damariscove Outer Island*

30 Midcoast Lighthouse Cruise*

August

1 Midcoast Lighthouse Cruise*

6 On to Richmond*

7 Night Lights on the Coast of Maine*

10 Seguin, The Island Sentinel*

11 Maine Lobsters and Local Lore*

14 Midcoast Lighthouse Cruise*

20 Midcoast Lighthouse Cruise*

24 In the Wake of Benedict Arnold*

25 Pemaquid, Colonial Empire*

27 Midcoast Lighthouse Cruise*

28 Seguin, The Island Sentinel*

September

1 Midcoast Lighthouse Cruise*

3 Midcoast Lighthouse Cruise*

5 Pemaquid, Colonial Empire*

8 Midcoast Lighthouse Cruise*

11 Midcoast Lighthouse Cruise*

22 Pemaquid, Colonial Empire*

25 Midcoast Lighthouse Cruise*

October

3 Foliage Cruise*

6 Foliage Cruise*

9 Midcoast Lighthouse Cruise*

13 Foliage Cruise*

Midcoast Lighthouse Cruise: This favorite cruise offers wonderful views of at least 5 lighthouses and 7 other navigational lights. Depending upon weather and tide the cruise includes a visit to either Ram Island, Burnt Island or Seguin Island. (9 a.m. - 4 p.m.)

Seguin, The Island Sentinel: Visit the lighthouse and museum; climb the light tower to view spectacular scenery from 180 feet above the sea. *Please note:* though launch service is provided to the island, getting on and off the island is strenuous. Walking up the path to the lighthouse is also a moderate challenge. (9 a.m. - 3 p.m.)

Damariscove Outer Island: Visit a most unusual island preserve; explore its natural history and 400 years of fishing and island life. (9 a.m. - 4 p.m.)

Pemaquid, Colonial Empire: Retrace the routes of the first European visitors to a 17th-century coastal village; view several settlements not normally accessible to the public, plus archaeological sites and an historic fort. (9 a.m. - 4 p.m.)

Maine Lobsters and Local Lore: Join Maine story-teller John McDonald on this cruise to Georgetown. Enjoy his stories of seafaring days gone by and enjoy a fresh seafood dinner on the deck. Watch lobstermen unload the day's catch in this delightful harbor community. (4 p.m. - 9 p.m.)

On to Richmond: The middle Kennebec River and Merrymeeting Bay are the focus of this cruise. See historic architecture; visit an active Russian Orthodox church. (9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.)

Swan Island, Where Eagles Roam: Take this early morning safari-style cruise to an active state game preserve; enjoy a biologist's presentation about wild-life habitat. See osprey and eagles fish for breakfast and view nesting areas up close. (9 a.m. - 3 p.m.)

Night Lights on the Coast of Maine: This popular cruise provides a close-up view of 15 lights and lighthouses at dusk. Depending upon weather and tide, visit either Ram Island, Burnt Island or Seguin Island lighthouse. See our famous lighthouses in a "whole new light." (4 p.m. - 9 p.m.)

In the Wake of Benedict Arnold: Travel upriver to Richmond to see Revolutionary War sites and hear their infamous stories; take a special look at the 1775 Mast Landing incident in Bath. (9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.)

Foliage Cruise: Take the boat to the best Fall colors; we may cruise to Merrymeeting Bay or Boothbay Harbor, or maybe the Sheepscot River. Bring your lunch and enjoy the view. (9 a.m. - 3 p.m.)

*Cruises \$25 members, \$30 non-members

Welcome Aboard!

New Members Nov. 1998 - Jan. 1999

James Bailinson Mr. & Mrs. Kyle M. Barnard Kristen Bartlett Cynthia Baughman Mrs. B. Thompson Birdsall Jesse N. Bradley Michael Brody Steve & Lynda Chandler Dana F. Clark Ralph L. Colby Thomas Davis & Danny Evarts William R. Dill Mr. & Mrs. Driver Scott & Karen Ewert Bruce C. Farrell Gerard Fernald Robert H. Flory, Jr. Christopher Gibson Frederick Gralenski Mr. & Mrs. W.N. Guild Mr. & Mrs. Montagu Hankin, Jr. Thomas & Elizabeth Hardy Nancy & F. Bruce Hinkel Donald Hulick Erin Hulick Inner Space Services, Inc. Marc N. Karn David Kaufman P. Jefferson & Jennifer Kimball Michael Klapatch Mr. & Mrs. Michael J. Knudsen Arthur Layton Lawrence M. Lewis Lee N. Lindeman The Paul McDonough Family Curtis D. Mildrum Ernest E. Mildrum, Ir. William A. Minnick Northeast Drilling, Inc. Dr. & Mrs. Lincoln Paine Lynne L. Pantalena William J. Powers, M.D. Elizabeth M. Reid Snow Squall Bed & Breakfast William T. & Patricia E. Spock Vicki Sprague Kip Stone Bruce & Bob Viles Elizabeth Hunting Wheeler Robert Zildjian



Modeller and Volunteer – *Red Robertson is one of five MMM volunteers honored by Maine Governor Angus King.* -Photo by Bob Webb

Maine Governor Honors Volunteers

Five exceptional Maine Maritime Museum volunteers have been recognized by Governor Angus S. King, Jr. during the State's celebration of Volunteerism. The Governor's Service Awards, Maine's "Honor Roll for Volunteerism" were presented recently to these volunteers, who contributed more than 500 hours each during 1998.

James (Red) Robertson of Westport Island (*above*) gave the greatest number of hours –1,325 – building and restoring vessels in our Boatshop and creating beautiful models for sale in the Museum Store. Two other Boatshop volunteers shared the honors: Arthur Kettley of Damariscotta (895 hours) and Robert Sawyer of Newcastle (652 hours).

Roy Wheeler of Bath contributed 620 hours in the Curatorial department and as a tour guide on the Grand Banks schooner *Sherman Zwicker*. Robert Niles of Phippsburg gave 574 hours in the Boat Shop, Library, and as a Museum tour guide.

Our dedicated corps of volunteers participate daily around the Museum. The 4,231 hours tallied by these five are included in a remarkable 25,000-plus hours contributed by all MMM volunteers during 1998.



"I Christen Thee..." – Invited guests stand by to launch one of Sewall's steel barks, probably the Arthur Sewall on February 23, 1899.

-MMM Collections

A Century Ago Steel Sailing Ships Made News

Exactly 100 years ago the shipyard of A. Sewall & Company in the north end of Bath reached full production of steel-hulled four-masted barks. Vessels of this type were developed and constructed principally in the United Kingdom, France and Germany to carry prodigious quantities of bulk cargoes around the world. Sewall's was the only American shipyard to build these final masterworks of sail.

Sewall's four-masters differed from other Maine-built sailers because their hulls were made of riveted steel plates over steel frames. Steel was also used extensively for masting. Their sail-plan was only rarely seen in America and was considered unusual: they came to be known as "shipentines" because they carried three square-rigged masts like a ship plus a "jigger" mast rigged with fore-and-aft sails, much in the way brigantines and barkentines carry square and fore-and-aft sails on separate masts.

Arthur Sewall, the "merchant prince" of Bath became encouraged by results obtained from operating a British-built vessel of this type, the *Kenilworth*. He decided to build similar vessels for the Sewall fleet. Borrowing on Scottish expertise and imported steel Sewall's shipbuilders launched the now-famous "shipentine" *Dirigo* in 1894. She was followed in 1898 by the *Erskine M. Phelps*.

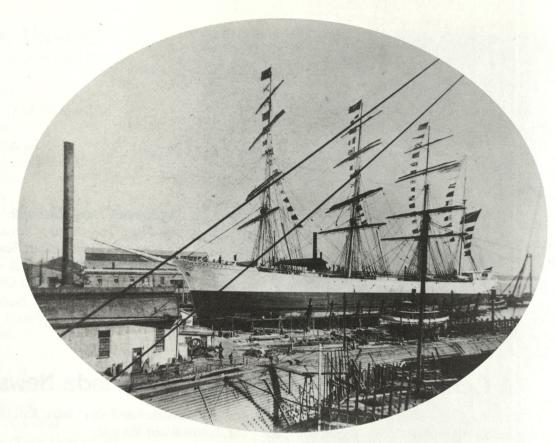
On February 23, 1899 the firm launched its third "shipentine," the *Arthur Sewall*, followed October 3 by her sister, the *Edward Sewall*. The launching of the

smaller three-masted steel bark *Kaiulani* on December 2 closed out the year.

Arthur Sewall lived to see these vessels put overboard but his death in 1900 robbed him of the chance to approve the final evolutions of the design as carried out in the *William P. Frye* of 1901 and three similar barks built under contract to Standard Oil of New York: the *Astral* and *Acme* of 1901 and the *Atlas* of 1902. Standard Oil intended them as case-oil (kerosene) transports to China and Japan.

The Arthur Sewall vanished during 1907 and the William P. Frye was sunk by a German cruiser in 1915, the first American-flag vessel lost in the conflict that would become World War I. Others finished in the Alaska Packers' "Star" fleet in San Francisco Bay. The Erskine M. Phelps, cut down for use as a naval fuel barge carried on until after World War II.





The four-masted bark Edward Sewall all dressed. This year marks the 100th anniversary of her launching. See page 23.





243 Washington Street, Bath, Maine 04530

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